HAWC Newsletter

November 2026
Volume 18, Issue 11

Houston Area Woodcarvers
(HAWC)

President's Message

It's been a busy month. The 56th Fall Show in October was a success, we sent our ornaments to *Chip Chats* for their Holiday Ornament Share & Care Campaign, and displayed carvings and demonstrated at Armand Bayou's Fall Festival.

After the Fall Show our ornament collection was sent to *Chip Chats*. Included with the ornaments from this year's Christmas in July Carving Contest were ornaments the club had made in 2010-2011 when we were selling them and donating the proceeds to Texas Children's Hospital and the Veterans' Hospital. There were also almost finished ornaments from our members who had passed away that were finished and sent. In all HAWC sent 121 ornaments to the campaign. Check out the gallery at https://chipchats.org/page-18175. You'll see some of the ornaments we sent in in Gallery #3. Carvings I recognized were by Bill Todd, Pete Reittinger, Ronnie Boston, Randall Clemments, JoAn Brueggeman and me.

November 7 and 8 were the days of the Armand Bayou Harvest Festival. The weather was great — except the shade left us early Saturday morning. We set up our table under a big tree with what looked like lots of shade. Wouldn't you know it, about an hour after we set up the shade disappeared! So, Sunday, we moved to a spot with more trees and shade that had lasted all day Saturday. Much better! We were right by the stop for the wagon rides, so we got lots of visitors while they were waiting for the ride or just getting off. We were told there was about 1,000 people at the festival on Saturday; don't know how many on Sunday. It was a great two days for people watching and talking about carving. The two most frequently asked questions were "How long have you been carving?" and "How long did it take you to make that?". We really couldn't answer the how long did it take question. I guessed at how long we had been carving. Then my curiosity got up so I started looking through old photos and at old carvings. Best I can figure out Preston started carving in 1995. I took my first woodburning class in 1999, first chip carving class in 2004 and first relief class in 2006. It's hard to believe we've been enjoying this great hobby for that long! A big ***Thank You*** to the carvers who came to

Armand Bayou to help with the HAWC booth: **Neil Buso, Victoria Shipman, Mike Crosson, Matt Brueggeman, Preston Smith, Fred & Jackie Childers, Pete Reittinger, Kasey Shell & Jessie.** We couldn't have done it without you.

At the November meeting we'll be making plans for our Christmas party and 2027. We're looking forward to seeing you then and your help.

Carolyn Smith

Fall Show

Everyone had a good time at the 56th Fall Show and Competition. We grew a little from last year — 17 display tables and 1 vendor; 39 carvings entered in competition; 7 sponsors. Our corporate sponsors were Fan Carvers World, Houston Hardwoods, and Kendrick Brothers Air Conditioning. Donors were Gene Messer, John Curcio, Jerry McNulty, Preston & Carolyn Smith. Thank you! Fan Carver's World has wood and books for sale on their website and free instructional videos. Gene has instruction videos on U-Tube. Check it out.

Congratulations to all the competition winners. Cathy Green (visitor from Missouri) won Best of Show with her realistic bust carving titled "Lydia Goddess of Grapes". Cathy won several first-place awards. Kevin Lawson won the Pastor's Choice Award with a realistic fish scene titled "Stand Off". Jamie Frontiera (chip carving) and Charlie Holden (bark carving) tied for People's Choice Award. John Kidd won the Best Display Table Award. First Place in the Youth category was won by 5-year-old Ridge Comer with his bark carving. Ridge also entered a clown with rainbow which won second place. Ridge says he is going to carve a whole circus. He is Cathy Green's grandson; grandma and grandson enjoy carving together. The full list of competition winners is on our website, https://www.houstonareawoodcarvers.com/docs/2026CompetitionWinners.pdf .

The Whittling Contest had 7 contestants: Helen Havemann, Kevin Lawson, John Kidd, Carolyn Smith, Neil Buso, Pete Reittinger and Bill Todd. First time in a long time that we didn't have to beg to get contestants! Maybe it was the carved "trophy" that Jerry McNulty made for us?! Thank you, Jerry! Jerry was in charge of the contest. This year's theme was to carve something you would find in a Texas gas station. First Place went to Bill Todd, second to Kevin Lawson and third to Pete Reittinger. We're looking forward to 2027 when Bill will be in charge of the whittling contest.

The Wednesday – Friday classes were well attended and we all had fun. With a little help from Mike Duhon and Gene Messer most of us went home with finished (or almost finished) projects. There was a total of about 9 students every day. Mike and Gene thank you! Pat O'Donnell was the (un)lucky winner of the First Blood Award. Luckily, he only needed a small band-aide. You've got to watch those newly sharpened knives 😊

Monthly Project (Mini-class)



The November mini-class is brought to us by Jamie Frontiera. It will be either a 4" or 6" chip carving. Jamie will be teaching how to create your own pattern.

No class in December as it will be our Christmas luncheon/party/carving exchange. Now taking volunteers to be 2027 class instructors!

Election Time!

You only thought the elections were over! At the November meeting we will be electing our 2027 officers (they'll take over in January). Nominations will be taken at the meeting. Yes, you can nominate yourself. The positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Show Chairman. Current officers are Carolyn Smith, President; Lance Rath, Vice President; Charlie Holden, Treasurer; Matt Brueggeman, Secretary; Helen Havemann, Newsletter; Carolyn Smith, Show Chairman.

2027 Meeting Dates

January 16
February 20
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19
July 17
August 21
September 18
October 13-15 – Fall Show Classes – Faith Lutheran
October 16 – Fall Show in Faith Lutheran Gym
November 20
December 18 – Christmas Luncheon

Community Service Projects

After displaying them at the Fall Show, we gave Faith Lutheran 9 more crosses for the wall of crosses and 41 comfort carvings (crosses, hearts, bird).

Comfort crosses/birds/animals for Faith House Ministry (at Faith Lutheran) are needed.

January Cross Carving Contest

We'll be judging the crosses at the January meeting. If you haven't gotten your cross blank, pick up one (or two) at the meeting. These were cross blanks Ronnie Boston got at a Lutheran church garage sale. They told Ronnie their pastor's father had cut them out and wanted the crosses to go to a good home. Ronnie told them that we would be donating them to Faith Lutheran – from one church to another – that's a good home.

HAWC Photos October 2026





Best of Show, Kathy Greene





Pastor’s Award – Kevin Lawson



Carving Contest Winner – Bill Todd







HAWC Show Classes





Armand Bayou Harvest Festival

Houston Area Woodcarvers
25211 Sandi Lane
Katy, TX 77494

The Houston Area Woodcarvers meet this month from 9am-2pm on the 3rd Saturday, November 21, 2026, at the Faith Lutheran Church Day School Community Center, 4600 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX

See us on the Web: houstonareawoodcarvers.com

EMAIL: houstonwoodcarvers@yahoo.com

On Facebook: Houston Area Wood Carvers